

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

7 SEPTEMBER 1984

Iran

Khamene'i Visit to Syria — President 'Ali Khamene'i led a delegation to Damascus to hold talks with his Syrian counterpart Hafiz al-Asad, Damascus radio reported. Participating in the meeting were the two countries' foreign ministers, Revolution Guards Corps Minister Mohsen Rafiqdaust, and Syrian Vice Presidents 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Zuhayr Mashariqah. In remarks cited by IRNA before his departure from Tehran, Khamene'i stated that the talks will center on the Palestinian problem, the war with Iraq, developments in the Persian Gulf and Red Sea areas, and the situation in Lebanon.

Id-e Qorban Speeches — In his morning sermon at Tehran University on the occasion of Id-e Qorban, Khamene'i reiterated that peace with Iraq is "unimaginable" as long as Iraqi leader Saddam Husayn remains in power, IRNA reported. He stated that the Eastern and Western "warmonger powers" have realized that Husayn cannot win an "expansionist war" against Iran. Meanwhile, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni told a group of religious, political, and military leaders in a speech broadcast by Tehran radio that some "very stupid and very cunning" mullahs have insulted the Shi'ite faith and imams in order to generate disunity. Khomeyni also expressed the hope that the "great demonstrations and powerful slogans" that were present in Mecca this year will happen again each year.

Deputy Foreign minister Returns — Deputy Foreign Minister Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam returned to Tehran on 5 September after a visit to the GDR, Tehran radio reported. Sheykh ol-Eslam had a brief stopover in Prague, where he met with his CSSR counterpart, the radio added.

Libya

Referring to the present maneuvers by the U.S. 6th Fleet in the Gulf of Sidra, Tripoli radio affirmed that the "treacherous and flagrant aggression" through the "terroristic military exercises" is meant to force the Libyan people to yield to U.S. designs. The radio pointed out that Libya's territorial waters are "worth dying for," and that the country's "huge military force" is "not for parades but for fighting and for waging war." The radio reiterated that some units of the Libyan Armed Forces have been put on alert status "in preparation for the battles of freedom and dignity."

Saudi Arabia

Interior Minister Prince Nayif stated that this year's pilgrimage plan was a "complete success," and he denied that there were any incidents that interrupted the peace inside the Grand Mosque in Mecca, SPA reported. Some "irresponsible actions" did take place outside the mosque, the prince admitted, but the problems were settled immediately.

Lebanon

The ambassador to the United Nations expressed his country's "profound regret" on 7 September over the U.S. veto in the UN Security Council of Lebanon's "humanitarian complaint" against Israeli actions in the south, and Prime Minister Karami said he was "shocked" by the veto Beirut radio reported.

Israel

Following a meeting between Alignment leader Shim'on Peres and Likud leader Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, Peres stated that the composition of the new cabinet had been agreed upon and that he hopes to present the government at the end of next week, Jerusalem radio reported. However, Shamir maintained that there are still some problems that must be solved and that the two leaders will meet again next week, the radio added.

Pakistan-Afghanistan

Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Ali Khan returned to Islamabad on 5 September from the UN-sponsored indirect talks with Afghanistan in Geneva, Karachi radio reported. Ali Khan disclosed to newsmen upon his arrival that informal consultations will continue before the next round of talks in Geneva in February, the radio added. He stated that the talks centered on four major points: withdrawal of foreign troop international guarantees, return of Afghan refugees, and bilateral guarantees for nonintervention and noninterference. Ali Khan also disclosed that he will visit Iran on 11 September to hold talks with his Iranian counterpart.

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BAKHTAR Scores Pakistani Role in Counterrevolution
LD062147 Kabul BAKHTAR in Dari 1245 GMT 6 Sep 84

[Text] Kabul, 6 Sep (BAKHTAR) — The incident of a bomb explosion at the Kabul International Airport terminal, which resulted in the death and injury of a number of civilians including old men and children, has provoked the indignation of our heroic people and all progressive and peaceful people of the world.

These criminal actions and undeclared war against our people and the gains of the April revolution have been carried on for 6 years by counterrevolutionary bands, trained in Pakistan with help from the most aggressive militarist forces headed by Chinese hegemonism and the United States. The leaders of the counterrevolutionary bands in Peshawar do not hide the execution of this shameful action, but with happiness speak clearly and openly of such criminal actions against our revolutionary people.

What is the stand of Pakistan, which has put its soil at the disposal of the enemies of our people? The Pakistani militarists consistently claim that their assistance to the so-called mujahidin of Islam is limited to humanitarian aid. The essence of this so-called humanitarian assistance and the mission of Pakistan in connection with the Afghan counterrevolutionaries is not only the fomenting of serious interference inside Afghanistan. It has established more than 100 camps on the Afghanistan border for the military training of the enemies of our revolution. These camps, and there are more every day, exist as military camps under the Pakistani Army; they are the staging areas for undeclared war and military interference against our people by the counterrevolution and its masters, that is, international and regional reaction.

It is clear that these camps are under the complete administration of U.S., Pakistani, and Chinese instructors. Some 40,000 bandits are trained in them. This is the result of Islamabad's so-called humanitarian assistance to the counterrevolutionaries, which has resulted in the destruction of hundreds of schools, roads and buildings.

The tragic incident of Kabul International Airport is another proof of this so-called humanitarian aid.

The Afghan counterrevolutionaries, in collusion with the militarists of Pakistan and their imperialist and regional guardians, by these sinister actions, want to deprive the people of Afghanistan of their revolutionary gains. However, their vain designs as always, will be condemned to defeat.

Mujahidin Leader on Soviet Aims
GF041824 Lahore NAWA-E WAQT in Urdu 31 Aug 84
Magazine Supplement p 2

["Exclusive" interview with Mawlana Nasrullah Mansur, president of the Harkat-e Enqelab-e Eslami and "secretary general of seven Afghan mujahidin organizations," by unidentified correspondent in Islamabad — date not given]

[Excerpts] Question: What do you think will be the future of the Afghan war — that is, what will be the outcome?

Answer: This is an ideological war and no one knows how long it will last. The Soviet Union's objective is not merely to usurp Afghanistan. It is an ideological and military power, and it plans to move ahead after Afghanistan. But this, of course, will take a lot of time.

Question: Could you elaborate on that?

Answer: If the Soviet Union planned to occupy Afghanistan only, it could shorten the war by shedding the blood of the inhabitants, making the women widows and the children orphans, and by burning the fields and orchards. However, despite doing just that, it is still prolonging the war. The fact is that the Soviet Union's aim is to acquire the vast green areas of Pakistan, the oil and gas resources of Iran, and the oilwells in the Gulf area. In order to achieve this major objective it is using a large part of its strength.

Under these circumstances, it is for the Muslim countries to decide where to stop this war, that is, at the Afghan border, the Pakistan border, or in the Gulf. We personally think that Afghanistan is the best place for halting the war because its natural terrain, with high mountains and forests, is more conducive to our preventing the war from spreading. Such an area is not to be found in any other Islamic country.

Question: Can you be successful all by yourselves on this front?

Answer: The Soviet Union enjoys the support of all communist countries such as Libya, Syria, the PDRY, SRV, Cuba, GDR, and so forth, and all of them are ready to assist the Soviets. Hence, all those countries which support us should remain on the alert to assist us. Journalists should use the power of the pen generously and should proclaim to the world that we are not alone. God willing, the Soviets will be defeated and the mujahidin will be successful. In 5 years of war, we have observed that the more force the Soviet Union uses, the greater is its defeat, because the war is continuing and the mujahidin are gaining more experience.

Question: The mujahidin have set up many organizations and even have some differences among themselves. Why do they not unite under one command?

Answer: The early governments in Afghanistan fanned various social differences which created rifts in our ranks. But now we are trying to eliminate those differences. Whatever tribes the mujahidin may belong to, whatever dialects they may speak, their cause is one; and even now most of them are under the same commander. What is heartening is that in Afghanistan, the command for the holy war is in the hands of the clergymen, and hence their aim and ideology is the same. These persons are so strong that they are eliciting the union of the people by eradicating differences. The Soviets realize this, and it is this strength of the clergy that is impeding their success.

Question: Do you think that the Soviet Union could also use India for its ulterior motives?

Answer: It is a very old ruse of the Soviets to use India for attaining its own ends. It will try to create internal unrest and

aggravate the situation. Its eyes are on Baluchistan as well. At present, the Soviet Union has its hands full with the Afghan mujahidin which can keep it engaged for quite a while. As it is a war of ideology, the mujahidin are firm in their stance. If Pakistan is affected in any way, the 30 lakh [1 lakh equals 100,000] Afghan refugees will rally to its assistance. They also participated in the Kashmir war, but they were not too organized at that time. Now, they are fully aware of the situation.

Question: We have received reports that the Soviet Union has sent its agents into Pakistan in the guise of refugees and are waiting for a chance to strike.

Answer: This is true. The Soviet Union has sent these agents to disgrace the Afghan refugees, but the mujahidin are keeping an eye on them and their activities and are vigilant. The mujahidin are fully aware of what the Soviets want and what these agents can do. We inform the Afghan refugees coming into Pakistan about the Soviet agents, and we inform the Pakistani Government of the details of such agents. We also acquire information on the families of such agents; it is our policy to wipe out such agents, preferably in Afghanistan. We give special training to individuals for this purpose. The mujahidin are wary of their actions, and we call them and warn them to refrain from carrying out their plans. If they do not agree, then we surround them and try to eliminate them. The refugees who come to Pakistan are fired with feelings of brotherhood and do not indulge in subversive activities. We are greatly indebted to Pakistan. There are some pro-Soviet elements in Pakistan who spread rumors among our Pakistani brothers in order to alienate them against the Afghan refugees and to make them hostile toward them. It is our good fortune that the Pakistani brothers are happy with the Afghans and refuse to accept such fabrications. Hence, we are very grateful to them.

Question: Are you satisfied with the Pakistani Government's efforts to resolve the Afghan question?

Answer: The Government of Pakistan has done a great service to the Afghan refugees for which we are very grateful. The refugees have come here with the idea that one day they will be able to return to their homes. If this could be managed in a suitable manner, then they will not remain here one extra day. We endorse Pakistan's stance for the resolution of this issue and for the safeguarding of its territorial integrity.

Question: What is the mujahidin's stance on the issue at the moment?

Answer: The united stance of the mujahidin is that which has been conveyed to the United Nations, but some people want to distort this united stance, such as the former King Zahir Shah and his associates. At one time, Zahir Shah had colluded with the Soviet Union to attack Pakistan, but the Afghan religious leaders vetoed this suggestion saying that Pakistan is a Muslim country and the shedding of the Muslims' blood would not be proper. Then, the Hindus began the farce of Pakhtunistan, paying a huge sum to Zahir Shah to carry on the Pakhtunistan campaign. In the war between India and Pakistan, when India

planned to attack Lahore, Zahir Shah called a jirga [council of elders] meeting and announced that he would set up Pakhtunistan. How can such a person be the well-wisher of the Afghans? Zahir Shah is responsible for the present state of affairs. He tried to dampen the fervor for holy war by declaring that the Muslim religious scholars and leaders were actually communists. During his father's reign the Muslims fought a holy war for the Muslim cities of Samarqand and Bokhara. After 13 years of a holy war 'Omar Beg was killed by Zahir Shah's father when he sought refuge in Afghanistan. Bokhara's doors were closed to the Afghan Muslims and they were either handed over to the Russians or thrown into prison. How can Zahir Shah even dare to talk today. The mujahidin know such people thoroughly and know what they are and what they want.

Question: What is the united stance of the mujahidin?

Answer: We have decided to issue a communique which will be in the form of a white paper and will reveal all the facts about the military tactics of the Soviet Union, and their efforts to make peace with the Mujahidin whose stance is clear and as follows:

1. Unconditional withdrawal of the Soviet troops.
2. An honorable return to the homeland for the refugees.
3. The Afghan people will decide their own form of government.
4. Afghanistan's free and nonaligned status must be retained.

Question: The Soviet Union has occupied Wakhan which adjoins Chinese territory. Is this post a source of danger for Pakistan?

Answer: We reported 1 and 1/2 years ago that the Soviet Union was planning to occupy this post and now has done so. We think that the Soviet Union wants to annex this point to India, which would be a dangerous thing for both Pakistan and the PRC.

Question: The Soviet Union recently has escalated its operations and Soviet aircraft bomb Pakistan's borders under cover of the Afghan Air Force. What is the reason for this?

Answer: Whenever it is time to hold talks, the Soviet Union steps up such activities in order to prove that it is more powerful and cannot be coerced into anything. It has displayed utter barbarism in the latest attacks. In those areas where it has suffered defeat, it massacres the population and sets fire to fields and crops. Recently, it set fire to a 4-km-long forest in 'Alikhel, near Pakistan's Parachinar area. The Soviet forces kill the people so that they cannot support the mujahidin. But as a result of the recent operations, the mujahidin have become more united. In such circumstances, all the mujahidin organizations unite and carry out operations. Due to the Soviet actions, the people's sympathies are with us and the time is not far off when truth will triumph in this ideological war and falsehood will be defeated.

Government Releases Prisoners on 'Id al-Adha

*BK060150 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
0110 GMT 6 Sep 84*

[Text] The government has decided to release 211 persons on the occasion of the holy 'Id al-Adha. They include 36 detenus [detainees] under the Special Powers Act and 175 convicts and under-trial prisoners. Out of 175 being granted amnesty, 31 are freedom fighters. On the occasion of the holy Id al-Fitr [in July 1984] the government released 2,024 persons, out of whom 123 were freedom fighters.

Premier Criticizes Opposition Elections Stance

*BK041438 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER
in English 29 Aug 84 p 1, 10*

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Ataur Rahman Khan on Tuesday called upon the opposition political parties to participate in the election to help establish democracy in the country. He said that boycotting of the election would only prolong martial law in the country.

Addressing a big public meeting organised by Janadal in observance of "Democracy Day" at Baitul Mukarram Plaza, Mr. Ataur Rahman Khan said that the present government was sincerely willing to establish democracy in the country and as such, had already announced the date of parliamentary election on December 8.

Criticising the opposition political parties specially the 15-party and seven-party alliance, Prime Minister Ataur Rahman Khan said that they were trying to foil the election on flimsy grounds. Referring to the demands of the opposition parties for a neutral caretaker government, Prime Minister Ataur Rahman Khan said that the existence of such a neutral government was unheard of in any country of the world.

Pointing to the Awami League and the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), Mr. Ataur Rahman Khan said that elections were held during their regimes also. He recalled that the late President Ziaur Rahman was elected president prior to the election of parliament.

Repeating his call to the opposition parties to participate in the election, Mr. Ataur Rahman Khan said that if they could win the election the government would step down and would peacefully transfer power to them.

Terming the conditions of the opposition parties as impossible and ludicrous, Mr. Ataur Rahman Khan said that their impossible conditions would not help establish democracy, rather would prolong martial law in the country.

Opposition Criticizes Parliamentary Poll Schedule

*BK041042 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 4 Sep 84*

[Text] In Bangladesh, the 15-party and 7-party opposition alliances have criticized the statement of President Ershad that the presidential elections will be held soon after the parliamentary polls in December.

In separate statements released in Dhaka, he said the schedule for presidential elections should be announced only after the first session of elected parliament.

Both the alliances alleged that the program to hold presidential elections immediately after parliamentary polls is part of a design by General Ershad to perpetuate himself in power.

All India Radio Dhaka correspondent Prabhakar Mishra says President Ershad disclosed the program for the presidential poll recently in an interview to Voice of America.

Armed Forces Asked To Help Establish Government

*BK031626 Delhi General Overseas Service in English
1330 GMT 3 Sep 84*

[Text] In Bangladesh, the president of the Awami League and leader of the 15-party alliance, Sheikh Hasina, has asked the country's Armed Forces to help establish a representative government. Addressing a public meeting near Faridpur town, she said it is only with their active cooperation the democracy can be restored.

Meanwhile, the 15 and 7 party opposition alliances met separately in Dhaka yesterday. They have reiterated their demand for formation of a nonpartisan government to conduct the parliamentary election.

Plan To Run for UN Presidency Announced

BK031016 Hong Kong AFP in English 0936 GMT 3 Sep 84

[Text] Dhaka, Sept 3 (AFP)— Bangladesh will stand for the 1986 United Nations presidency and Security Council membership, foreign adviser Humayun Rashid Choudhury disclosed here today. Bangladesh joined the U.N. in 1972 and contested for the 1981 presidency, which was tied with Iraq at the first ballot and eventually went to Baghdad. Dhaka was elected to the 1979-1980 Security Council to represent Asian countries.

Mr. Choudhury is to leave here tomorrow for New York for the U.N. General Assembly session beginning this month.

600 Farmers' Union Workers Arrested in Punjab
BK070324 Delhi Domestic Service in English
 0240 GMT 7 Sep 84

[Text] In Punjab, about 600 workers of the Bharatiya Kisan [Indian Farmers] Union have been arrested as a precautionary measure in view of the threat to hold a rally in Chandigarh next Monday in defiance of prohibitory orders. According to an official spokesman, the arrests have been made in apprehension of breach of peace. Some arrests have also been made in Chandigarh. The spokesman said the permission to hold the rally in Chandigarh has not been given since it is feared that it could lead to law and order problems.

No Decision on Return of Popular Rule in Punjab
BK061604 Delhi Domestic Service in English
 1530 GMT 6 Sep 84

[Text] The government has not yet taken any decision on installation of a popular rule in Punjab. This was stated by a spokesman of the Home Ministry in New Delhi today. The president's rule in the state is due to expire on the 6th of next month. He said if the situation so warranted, its term might be extended. The governor of Punjab, Mr K.P. Satarawala, called on the president, Giani Zail Singh, at Rashtrapati Bhawan [president's house] in New Delhi today. The meeting lasted 45 minutes.

Opposition Working Toward Electoral Alliance
BK061608 Delhi Domestic Service in English
 1530 GMT 6 Sep 84

[Text] The president of the Janwadi Party, Mr Chandrajit Yadev, MP, says that five opposition parties are now working for an alliance to contest the coming general elections on a common symbol and manifesto. He told newsmen in New Delhi today that the parties are Janata, Congress-S, Lok Dal, Janawadi, and the Democratic Socialist Party. He said the possibility of a merger of these parties does not seem to exist now.

CP Leader Rao Sends Greetings to Romania
AU051001 Bucharest SCINTEIA in Romanian
 1 Sep 84 p 4

[Message Sent by C. Rajeswara Rao, general secretary of the Communist Party of India (CPI), to the RCP Central Committee on Romania's National Day]

[Text] Dear Comrades, on the 40th anniversary of the historic victory of the Romanian people over fascism in World War II and the establishment of the people's power in your country, we extend to you ardent fraternal greetings and cordial congratulations, on behalf of the CPI National Council and myself personally.

The Romanian revolution, led by your party, has been an integral part of a world revolutionary process that has followed the defeat of fascism. This process has led to the creation of the world socialist system. The establishment and continuous

strengthening of the world socialist system — of which Romania is an important member — is the most decisive factor in the contemporary world, the best guarantee for peace, and the source of the great power of the national liberation movement and other anti-imperialist forces throughout the world.

The great progress made by your country in building and consolidating its socialist economy, under your party's leadership, is a most significant factor for the world revolutionary forces. We particularly noted your country's self-denying assistance in helping with the construction of the oil industry in our country.

Your party, led by Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu, plays a decisive role in building the developed socialist society in your country; this achievement has enhanced your country's role in the struggle against war and for peace throughout the world. We are glad to note that relations between our two parties are steadily intensifying, to our mutual satisfaction, on the basis of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism. On this historic occasion, we again extend to your our wishes for new success in your struggle.

Glory to the 40th anniversary of Socialist Romania! Long live the Indian-Romanian friendship! Long live the friendship between our two parties! Long live Marxism-Leninism! Long live proletarian internationalism!

With warm and fraternal greetings, yours, C. Rajeswara Rao, general secretary of the CPI National Council.

Call to Renegotiate GATT Agreement Rejected
BK061606 Delhi Domestic Service in English
 1530 GMT 6 Sep 84

[Text] India today made it clear that the multilateral trading system, which is under severe pressure, should be strengthened. An official spokesman told newsmen in New Delhi that the industrialized countries' proposal for a new round of negotiations at the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade will not solve the problems of the developing nations. The developing countries have already emphasized at the last meeting of the GATT that the commitment accepted earlier should be fulfilled and GATT work program implemented. Measures restricting exports of developing countries should also be lifted.

Opposition Seeks Open-Court Trials for 'Plotters'
BK070338 Delhi Domestic Service in English
 0240 GMT 7 Sep 84

[Text] In Pakistan, opposition parties have called for a trial in open courts of 56 people accused of plotting to throw the military government of President Ziaul Haq. The alleged plotters are among the 98 facing similar charges. Two sons of the former prime minister, Mr Bhutto, and 40 others are living abroad and are charged in absentia. In a statement issued at Lahore, the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy accused the special military court of favoring the prosecution.

Next Round of Afghan Talks To Focus on Settlement

BK060859 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 5 Sep 84

[Excerpts] The next round of indirect talks on the Afghanistan problem, due to be held in Geneva in February next year, is expected to focus on the instruments for implementation of a comprehensive settlement of the problem. These instruments were also discussed during the recent talks. The foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, who returned to Islamabad this afternoon after leading the Pakistani delegation at the talks, told newsmen at the airport that the UN secretary general's special representative, Diego Cordovez, delivered the texts of certain proposals to the two delegations.

He said informal consultations on this problem will continue. In the meantime, when he goes to New York as leader of the Pakistani delegation to the forthcoming UN General Assembly session, he will meet UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar, and certain other leaders. He said his talks with them will certainly focus on the Afghanistan problem and Pakistan's stand on resolving this problem through negotiations will also be emphasized.

The foreign minister said that during the last round of indirect talks the discussions were mostly devoted to the four points on the agenda. These points are: the withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan, bilateral guarantees for non-intervention and non-interference, international guarantees, and the return of Afghan refugees.

The foreign minister also referred to the serious violations of Pakistan's airspace and territory by Afghanistan during the Geneva talks, resulting in the loss of innocent lives and damage to property. He said these violations were viewed with profound concern. The UN secretary general and friendly countries have been apprised of Pakistan's concern in this regard. The international community has widely condemned these unprovoked violations, he said, but Pakistan worked with constructive and positive spirit at the Geneva indirect talks. Our aim is to carry forward the process of finding a solution to the Afghanistan problem which has been the center of the international community's attention for the past 5 years, he added.

The foreign minister said Pakistan emphasized the four points which it considers as the basis for a settlement and emphatically stated that the four points are interrelated and, hence, they should be approached in an integrated manner. He said Pakistan expressed its standpoint on all vital aspects, including the fundamental issue of withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan. The Pakistani delegation particularly stressed the need for a decision on an appropriate mechanism for consultations with the Afghan refugees on the conditions under which they would go back to their homeland. Pakistan attaches extraordinary importance to the need for a solution to the Afghanistan problem, the foreign minister observed.

In reply to a question, Yaqub Khan referred to a statement he had made prior to his departure that no surprising results should be expected from this round of Geneva talks. He emphatically stated that although some progress has been made, it is not as

much as they had wanted. It is not correct to say that the talks were deadlocked, he added.

In reply to another question, the foreign minister said receiving bilateral assurances for non-interference and non-intervention has been an important aspect of the process of negotiations since the very beginning. International guarantees are also a part of these assurances on Afghanistan.

Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan appreciated the untiring efforts as well as the strong determination of the UN secretary general and Diego Cordovez for a negotiated settlement of the Afghanistan problem.

The foreign minister said he would be visiting Iran from 11 September to exchange views with his Iranian counterpart on matters of mutual interest. He said during the talks he would brief the Iranian foreign minister on the latest round of the Geneva indirect talks and their future prospects. The foreign minister said Pakistan attaches great importance to exchanges of views with Iran.

NAWA-E WAQT Appraises Border Situation

GF031125 Lahore NAWA-E WAQT in Urdu 30 Aug 84 p 3

[Editorial: "Soviet Forces on Pakistan's Border"]

[Excerpts] According to international news agencies, the majority of the Soviet forces in Afghanistan have been massed on the Pakistani border near Paktia Province. These forces are carrying out extensive operations against the Afghan mujahidin in the same province. Helicopters are being used in these operations, according to a BBC report.

The selfless resistance against the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan continues along the length and breadth of the country. Most of the clashes have taken place in the Panjsher valley near Kabul and in some areas near the Soviet border. In the west, bloody forays have been reported in Herat Province near the Iranian border. The fact that troops are being massed in the east and south close to the Pakistani border can only mean that, along with tackling the mujahidin in the area, attempts to intimidate Pakistan are also being increased on a dangerous scale and are a precursor to future Soviet troop movements.

The policy of exerting pressure on Pakistan to a dangerous extent has been stepped up and intensified at a time when the third round of indirect talks is in progress in Geneva and the UN General Assembly is scheduled to meet in mid-September. The UN secretary general's emissary is supervising the Geneva talks for the implementation of the UN-approved resolutions and he will have to explain the progress made at the Geneva talks at the General Assembly session.

For Pakistan, the presence of Soviet troops on its border adjoining Afghanistan is not the only danger. The Soviet Union's ally has also increased the number of its troops on the eastern border on the pretext of crushing the Sikh campaign and, instead of initiating talks on peace and friendship with Pakistan, it is indulging in threats and accusations against Pakistan. It is indeed ironic that

instead of lauding Pakistan's valuable services in saving the lives of the passengers and crew of the hijacked Indian plane, it is making accusations against Pakistan. This is a living example of the adage: "Do good and reap evil!"

This campaign of maligning Pakistan can be construed as a fresh act of instigation and of collusion between New Delhi and Moscow. In any case, the massing of Soviet troops on Pakistan's border with Afghanistan and the Indian troops on the Punjab border have made the impending dangers frightfully clear. This is a situation which is being thrust on Pakistan and the need to strengthen our defenses and to ponder strategies is becoming as imperative as is the need to confide in the people. When the rulers say that Pakistan's 80 million people will not hesitate to make any sacrifices for their country, they could not have said a truer

word. Pakistanis are fired with the fervor of protecting their country against all dangers but, the question is, how are they to do this? It is necessary [to] make them aware of the nature of the threat and how to tackle it.

In the present era, wars are fought not just on the fronts, but also in offices, fields, and factories, even in the minds. Because of this it is essential that the people should participate and this can only be done by confiding in them and by respecting and considering their aspirations. For this purpose it is necessary to reinstate a people's government so that the Armed Forces may be able to concentrate on their primary responsibility of wholeheartedly safeguarding the country's security in the best manner possible.

SRI LANKA**AFP: Five Dead, Six Injured by Terrorist Gunmen***BK061142 Hong Kong AFP in English 1129 GMT 6 Sep 84*

[Text] Colombo, Sept 6 (AFP)—Gunmen have killed five people and seriously wounded six others in an attack on a shop in the north, heartland of the Tamil separatist movement, security force officials said today. They said that men in a car fired on a group of people at a wayside store in the Mankulam area last night. The car used in the attack had been stolen from a state institution, they said, adding that a retired policeman and a government employee were among the dead.

Police sources said the shooting was the work of "Tamil terrorists" and that they had aimed to get security forces blamed for the attack. Militants among the Tamil minority are fighting to set up a separate state in the north and east of the island republic.

Thirty-three soldiers are confined to barracks for setting ablaze about 120 shops and homes in Manner, west of Mankulam, in retaliation for the ambush killing of six soldiers early last month. A senior police officer is also probing allegations that policemen killed at least seven civilians and set fire to shops in Point Pedro, at the northern tip of the island this month. This attack was allegedly in retaliation for the killing of four policemen by militant separatists.

Delhi Reports Tamils Shot Dead by Police*BK070320 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 7 Sep 84*

[Text] In Sri Lanka, five Tamils were shot dead by police commando unit at Mallawi in Mullaitivu on Wednesday night. Five others were injured. In another incident at Mankulam, seven shops were gutted.

Meanwhile, the Tamil United Liberation Front leader, Mr Amirthalingam, yesterday had a meeting with President Jayewardene in Colombo. He strongly protested against the excesses by security forces at Point Pedro, Achchuveli, and Mullaitivu. The TULF leader voiced the apprehension that so long as indisplined forces are allowed to remain in Tamil areas, such atrocities are bound to occur in future as well.

Khomeyni Delivers Address on Id-e Qorban
LD070032 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT
6 Sep 84

[Excerpts] On the blessed occasion of Id-e Qorban, President Khamene'i, Speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly Hashemi-Rafsanjani, President of the Supreme Court Musavi-Ardabili, Prime Minister Musavi, and ambassadors and charges d'affaires of Islamic countries in Iran and a number of members of the clergy and civil and military officials, were this morning received in Jamaran Mosque by Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution and the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In this meeting, Khamene'i first expressed his greetings on the occasion of the blessed Id-e Qorban to the imam of the nation and other Muslims. Then the hope of the world's oppressed made a detailed speech.

[Begin Khomeyni recording] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. I send greetings to all the Muslims of the world, to those present, and to all the oppressed people on the occasion of this blessed feast. I hope that through his blessings on this feast day and during other holy festivals, Almighty God will enable us and all Muslim nations to follow the straight path of Islam, to think in terms of Islamic ideals and to succeed in creating amity and unity among Muslims.

We hope that the Muslim people will wake up and will become spiritually as well as politically aware of these feasts which Almighty God has established for them and that they will also act on that basis. We hope that the pilgrims who are in the holy house of God [in Mecca] will awaken the Muslims, although at this time a number of very stupid and very cunning akhunds [slightly derogatory term for a mullah] have begun writing and distributing certain religious epistles that have insulted the Shi'ite faith and imams. The stupid akhund who at such a time insults Shi'ite sanctities is hoping to generate disagreement, so that where there is talk of unity they may create disunity. What can Islam do with such thinking, with such actions? What can Islam do with these akhunds, who wear the garb of holy men and who are scattered among the people? It is a calamity that now, when the Muslims are thinking, the akhunds, because they see that some young people have been attracted to that following and have been attracted to Iran, see it as their duty to say that Iranians are polytheists, that they are magi, [followers of the pre-Islamic prophet of Iran, Zoroaster], and so on. They even utter insulting words concerning some of the Shi'ite sanctities. Is this anything but service to imperialism, service to the great powers, and a hindrance to Islam? We should think about such people. Muslims should consider these issues and these people, who are so intent on creating dissension among Muslims.

Thanks be to God, this year in Mecca those great demonstrations and powerful slogans caused the idols to lose some of their glamour. God willing, this will happen again in the future. We hope that each year these issues will develop progressively and that Muslims will come together and shout at a place which is the place for shouting [as heard]. I beseech God Almighty to awaken all of us, to awaken all Muslims and to increase their awareness of Islam and Muslim issues. I hope that the governments of the region will wake up and dissociate themselves from

the evil propaganda of these akhunds and from the evil incitements of the United States and its agents, and that they will proceed with unity of expression until they can save Islam from the hands of these blood-thirsty people and liberate the Islamic lands from the hands of those who wish to devour the entire Islamic world. May God Almighty grant all of us and all of you success in celebrating these feasts with full awareness of Islam and Islamic teachings. God's peace and grace be upon you. [end recording]

Reportage on Khamene'i, Delegation's Syrian Visit

Talks Previewed

LD061525 Tehran IRNA in English 1516 GMT 6 Sep 84

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 6, IRNA — The issue of occupied Palestinian lands and problems concerning the usurped territories will be the center of talks between the Islamic Republic of Iran's President 'Ali Khamene'i and the Syrian Arab Republic's President Hafiz al-Asad. This was announced by President 'Ali Khamene'i in an interview at Tehran's International Mehrabad Airport prior to his departure for Damascus Thursday afternoon [6 September].

The president also said that the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Syrian Arab Republic have numerous common stances vis-a-vis world issues, particularly problems of the region. He added that Syria has been one of the countries standing by the Islamic Republic since the victory of the revolution, especially after the outbreak of the Iraqi-imposed war. Since long ago, said the president, President al-Asad invited me several times to pay a visit to his country.

Naturally, went on Khamene'i, one of our important and common issues is the occupied Palestinian lands as well as the problems related to the usurped territories. From our point of view, the issue of the Zionist regime is a main problem which is related to the whole world of Islam.

Referring to the fact that the loudest cry in fighting this colonial phenomenon (Zionist regime) is heard from the Iranian nation, Khamene'i said Syria too, is the only country on the front line of the struggle against the Zionists, which is still continuing the struggle and resistance.

Khamene'i further said that there are other problems to be discussed during his visit to Syria. He emphasized that issues related to the Iraqi-imposed war, Persian Gulf and developments in the Red Sea and Suez Canal [as received] as well as the problem of Lebanon will be among topics to be discussed with the Syrian officials.

Khamene'i, Al-Asad Talks 'Friendly'

LD071046 Tehran IRNA in English 0958 GMT 7 Sep 84

[Text] Damascus, Sept. 7, IRNA — President 'Ali Khamene'i of the Islamic Republic and his Syrian counterpart Hafiz al-Asad will hold second rounds of talks today. Sources close to the

Iranian delegation said that today's talks will focus on Zionist regime's crimes in Lebanon and the occupied Palestine.

The Syrian president will also be briefed on Iran's extensive diplomatic endeavours to expel the Zionist regime from the United Nations organisation.

The sources added that in their talks Thursday [6 September] night, presidents of the two countries agreed on further measures to be taken for the expulsion of the regime occupying Al-Quds from the U.N. on which the Islamic Republic has prepared a plan.

The Thursday night talks also included matters of mutual interest and developments in the Middle East. Also further cooperation in fields such as Middle East situation, especially the occupied lands was stressed.

The friendly talks on Thursday night were held in a sincere atmosphere which is an indication of bilateral fraternal ties between the two Muslims peoples of Iran and Syria, an informed source said.

The source added that the main element bringing the two nations together was revolutionary and joint stances of the two countries in their fight against international Zionism.

President Khamene'i and his accompanying delegation which arrived in Syria Thursday attended a reception hosted by President al-Asad the same night. High-ranking Syrian officials and members of diplomatic corps there were also present.

Further Coverage

For coverage of the visit to Damascus by President 'Ali Khamene'i and a "very large" Iranian delegation, which also includes Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and Minister of the Revolutionary Guard Mohsen Rafiqdust, including their meetings with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, see the Syria section of the 7 September Middle East & Africa *DAILY REPORT* and subsequent issues.

Foreign Ministry Condemns U.S. Veto in UN
LD071203 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT
7 Sep 84

[Foreign Ministry statement]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Yesterday, the U.S. Government rejected a resolution put forward at the UN Security Council — which called for the evacuation of the aggressor forces of the Zionist regime from Lebanon — by using its illegitimate veto right, thus once again exhibiting to the world its support and protection of the regime occupying Palestine. Now we can see which regime America — which proclaims to be righteous and the protector of human rights — supports. It defends a regime that has occupied a part of the land of the Muslims, Palestine, for years. It defends a regime that has committed atrocities against the Muslim, inno-

cent people of Palestine and made millions of them homeless. It supports a regime that has murdered thousands of innocent Lebanese and Palestinian youths during its invasion of Lebanon. It protects a regime that has occupied southern Lebanon for months and has martyred thousands of Lebanese and Palestinian people living in that part, or has imprisoned them in its most terrible prisons, such as Ansar.

Yes, these are only some of the atrocities committed by a regime that always reminds Muslims of its slogan: "From the Nile to the Euphrates." It is the U.S. Government that defends such a regime while purporting to be a defender of human rights.

Now, this question arises: Can one expect a regime such as the Zionist regime and its protectors, headed by the U.S. Government, to respect human rights and the rights of Muslims? And should the Muslims and Islamic governments remain silent in face of these crimes and acts of aggression? The answer is definitely no.

On that basis, as the first step in the struggle and fight against this issue, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran calls for the expulsion of the Zionist regime from the United Nations and the isolation of that illegitimate regime. It is hoped that, with the help and cooperation of Islamic and nonaligned governments, the Iranian Government will be successful in this matter, and that we will ultimately witness the liberation of Islamic lands, with the unity and solidarity of Muslims.

In the hope of the victory of the oppressed over the oppressors.

[Signed] The Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Khamene'i Id-e Qorban Sermon on Hajj, Iraq
LD061539 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1041 GMT
6 Sep 84

[Excerpts] Millions of our Muslim compatriots observed the auspicious prayer ceremonies of the happy Id-e Qorban throughout the country today. Tehran's Muslim, revolutionary citizens held the prayers of the happy Id-e Qorban in closed ranks under the imamate of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i today. Following the prayers, Tehran's Friday imam [Khamene'i], rejoicing with world Muslims, particularly our Muslim compatriots and Islam's mighty combatants, on the happy Id-e Qorban, embarked on reading the prayers sermons. In connection with the special characteristics of this happy feast he said: The anniversary of Id-e Qorban is indeed the day of Abraham, the companion of God. On such a day the tradition of Abraham, the sacrificing the idol-breaking tradition of the companion of God, should be revived.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Khamene'i added: As long as the Iranian nation clung to what it had, it made no progress whatsoever and our life was that of an abject nation covered with shame before other nations. During that era, in the great world forum of hajj pilgrimage, the Muslim nations used to accuse us of collaboration with Israel and the United States. The truth was that the traitorous heads of our country those days perpetrated these grave sins; we, too, since we chose to remain silent, were

their partners until such a day when our nation by its own hand, in accordance with divine tradition, changed its life.

Today, during the hajj pilgrimage rites, the Islamic nations look upon our nation as an exemplary one. Our nation has had the courage to revive forgotten Islamic traditions. Among other things forgotten during the rites of the pilgrimage to the House of God was the shout of renouncing the blasphemers and polytheists and the adherence to the idol-breaking tradition of Abraham, the companion of God. In the house built by hands of Abraham, the Muslims used to congregate, but there was no talk of Abraham or the path of Abraham. Iran's Islamic Revolution revived the path of Abraham and his tradition. Today we thank God that Iranian pilgrims have been successful in their hajj pilgrimage and, thanks to the renewed revival of Islam, security officials have not created major problems for them. Armed with willpower, determination, firm resolve and excited motivation, our nation — God willing — will dash the hopes of world arrogance.

Tehran's Friday imam emphasized: The message of Id-e Qorban is self-sacrifice and struggle against the hegemonists and bullying world powers.

In his second prayer sermon the chairman of the Supreme Defense Council embarked on a review of the most important developments and world plots against Islam and Muslims during the past year. He referred to the war imposed on Iran by the Iraqi regime as the first plot hatched by arrogance against Islam, and said the following:

[Begin recording] An aggressive regime which has attacked a country with the intention of destroying a revolution and brought about all these losses — what fate should such a regime have? World propaganda for some time now — since the time when symptoms of weakness and defeat appeared in the aggressors — has attempted to make it look as if Iraq wants peace but Iran does not. But this is a lie. The conditions which we stipulated are not obstacles to peace but conditions for a lasting peace between the two countries and throughout the entire region. Vast and repeated experiences have shown that the present Iraqi regime is a war-mongering one. Peace has no meaning for it. It is not content with its limits and boundaries. Aggression exists in the nature of that regime and in the very mettle of those who are the bosses of that regime.

None of the international laws, humanitarian laws, or laws arising from righteousness and justice are valid for the ringleaders in Iraq. Neither do they have any compassion for their own people. For a crime perpetrated by a person — something they call a crime — they subject all his relatives to harsh punishments. They have intensified suffocation and oppression among the Muslim Iraqi people to the utmost possible pitch.

These are people who have been prepared to collaborate with all the superpowers for their own greedy aims and under the special influence of the superpowers to embark on the gravest crimes. And every day that passes the real face of that regime becomes more exposed.

An example is this very latest aircraft hijacking: They delayed the Muslims, they kept the aircraft, they kept the passengers, they acted contrary to all accepted international standards. This is something which is unprecedented throughout the world. If — as we strongly suspect — they were in collusion and collaboration with the traitorous hijackers of the aircraft and wanted to harbor them, why did they also keep the passengers and delay them for a number of days? Why did they keep the aircraft?

This is nothing but the outcome of an aggressive and hegemonistic spirit and indifference to all international laws and standards. Does the world not see this? Those who make the utmost attempt to prettify the hideous visage of the Iraqi regime and portray it as peace-loving to the world — what answer do they have to these questions and problems? We are facing such a regime. We are facing such base and odious traits and qualities, facing people who are prepared to destroy civilians by hundreds and thousands; aggression is a normal thing for them.

Were we not to stand up to this aggression, were we to turn back as planned by the superpowers and their agents — only God would know what would happen in the region today. The fact is that not a trace would remain of our revolution, our territorial integrity — you might just as well forget about these things. Nor is there any doubt that other fires would burn in the region. We have stood up and have resisted to this day with the utmost power.

Our aim, too, is known. Our aim is to crush the aggressor, to teach the sinner a lesson and punish those who wish to use hegemonism and aggression as an instrument for the advancement and existence of their regimes. This is our aim and we have resisted to this day in order to secure this aim; and even if it takes many more years we shall punish the aggressor. [loud cheers] [end recording]

The chairman of the Supreme Defense Council added: Saddam Husayn's supporters should remove from their ears the mufflers [as heard] of imposing a peace on Iran since the Islamic Republic speaks in a manner consistent with Islamic yardsticks and standards and therefore will not change its mind. If we were to renounce punishment for Saddam Husayn we would not be able to answer to our nation for its acts of self-sacrifice and selflessness.

The chairman of the Supreme Defense Council emphasized: Should Saddam Husayn remain, insecurity, too, would remain and peace would not be established in the region. The path to lasting peace in the region is the road to a peace without Saddam Husayn, and none other.

Continuing his sermon, Tehran's Friday imam added: Another problem for Muslims is that of usurping Israel, [whose existence] the powers wish to portray as a fait accompli. The United States has begun an extensive campaign aimed at erasing the Palestine issue from peoples' minds, and the U.S. bases in Africa and the Middle East attempt to make out to the nations that Israel's existence is inevitable. The Muslim nations should know that the problem of Israel is not over and that the problem of the Palestinian people is a permanent issue. So long as this issue has not been solved in a realistic and equitable manner, the struggle by the Palestinian people will continue and we will continue this struggle

on the military field and in political arena. During the hajj rites the Muslim nations are witnessing how seriously Iranian pilgrims are chanting the slogan: Death to Israel. Therefore, those who do not wish to know should understand that other Muslim nations, too, would most certainly reiterate that shout with their entire being. We believe that the Muslims and the governments of the Islamic countries should make a new and powerful investment in the Palestine issue and should continue this task.

In conclusion, Tehran's Friday imam added: With divine grace the standardbearer of the anti-Israeli struggle today is Iran's Muslim nation. In international forums, too, the loudest cries against the interests of the United States and Israel are those of the Iranian nation; and thanks to the courage of Iran's Muslim nation, we will forcefully carry on in this worldly and holy issue.

Sheikh ol-Eslam Returns From GDR, Prague Stopover

LD061835 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 6 Sep 84

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Hoseyn Sheikh ol-Eslam, who has been visiting the GDR at the head of a delegation, returned to Tehran last night and was welcomed at the airport by the ambassadors of the GDR, Czechoslovakia, and Bulgaria.

On his way back to Tehran the deputy foreign minister stopped briefly in Prague yesterday, and met with the deputy foreign minister of Czechoslovakia. During this meeting the two sides discussed bilateral relations, international issues of interest to both countries, and regional issues. Referring to the expansion of relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Czechoslovakia in all fields, the Iranian deputy foreign minister emphasized the importance of contacts between the two countries and the expansion of economic relations. He then referred to the war imposed on Iran and said: Security will return to the country only with the downfall of Saddam.

The Czechoslovak deputy foreign minister, emphasizing the similarity of views between his country and the Islamic Republic of Iran on many international issues, expressed his country's readiness for further expansion of bilateral relations. He also said: The creation of tension in the Persian Gulf is one of the goals of imperialism which wishes in this way to increase its presence in the region.

Comments on GDR Visit

LD062249 Tehran IRNA in English 1622 GMT 6 Sep 84

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 6, IRNA — The political deputy of the Foreign Ministry, Hoseyn Sheikh ol-Eslam, returned home Wednesday night after visiting the German Democratic Republic (GDR) and holding talks with that country's officials.

Sheikh ol-Eslam, who headed an Iranian delegation comprising the Foreign Ministry's director general of economic affairs, Mohammad Hoseyn Adeli, Iran's Ambassador to GDR Hamid Asefi and some other Iranian officials, explained the outcome of the visit upon his arrival in Tehran.

He said that during his visit he was convinced that the German Democratic Republic would support the Islamic Republic's proposal for the expulsion of the Zionist regime from the United Nations Organisation. Sheikh ol-Eslam also expressed the hope that with the support of the truth-seeking countries of the world, Iran could exert more pressure against the usurping policies of the Jerusalem-occupying regime.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique 1,842

LD061619 Tehran IRNA in English 1532 GMT 6 Sep 84

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 6, IRNA — Iran's Muslim combatants, silencing the Iraqi fire, inflicted some damages and casualties upon the enemy in the northwestern battlefronts of the Iraqi-imposed war over the 24 hours preceding Thursday, said the 1,842nd Joint Staff communique released the same day.

The communique added that the Iranian defenders destroyed two Iraqi mortar launchers as well as several enemy artillery pieces and munitions-carrying trucks and a number of bunkers during artillery fire exchanges in the said theatre.

Cross fire also persisted in the southern fronts, being more intense in the Kushk and Talayah regions. The Islamic forces shelled enemy positions in the same theatre smashing seven heavy and light armament emplacements and three engineering vehicles.

It further said that the Iraqi long-range artillery fire was directed at Abadan's inhabited areas devastating two more homes as well as causing fire in a sector of the city.

Envoy in London Denies Charges of Blocking Peace

LD071111 Tehran IRNA in English 1042 GMT 7 Sep 84

[Text] London, Sep. 7, IRNA — Iranian charge d'affaires here on Wednesday sharply refuted Baghdad's allegations accusing Iran of blocking peaceful efforts for ending the Iraq-Iran war. Sa'adatian, who was talking to the B.B.C. radio, reiterated that no peace can be concluded with a government (Iraq) which has committed myriads of war crimes and has massacred harmless civilians in their towns and cities.

In response to the B.B.C. reporter who argued that Iran's demands for ousting Saddam Husayn from power as a condition for ending the war did not sound plausible, the Iranian Embassy official questioned whether a tyrannized nation does not have the liberty and option to punish the aggressor country in order to safeguard its own natural rights.

The Iranian official noted explicitly that the Iraqi dictator could not manage to remain in power on his own for a single day once and if the big powers stop their support for him. He also noted that Iran would consider mediation only when the mediating parties fully heed Iran's principal demands for ending the war.

Iran's demands for ending the Iraq-Iran war include the identification and punishment of the aggressor party (Iraq), payment of war reparations by the said party to Iran and the return of multitudes of Iraqi Muslims to Iraq who have been expelled by

the ruling government in Baghdad and who have been staying in Iran as refugees, and last but not least, the ousting from power of Saddam Husayn and his ruling Ba'th Party in that country.

Earlier and in another interview with the radio, Baghdad's ambassador to London had accused the Islamic Republic Government of blocking Baghdad's peaceful advances and mediation of others.

Delegate Addresses Tripoli Congress on Solidarity

LD312216 Tehran IRNA in English 1837 GMT 31 Aug 84

[Text] Tehran, Aug 31, IRNA — A Libyan congress on solidarity which coincided with that country's revolution celebration was inaugurated in Tripoli Wednesday with the participation of a large group of representatives and personalities of liberation movements.

Also attending the congress was President Khamene'i's envoy and Asian countries' representative 'Abdollah Jasbi who said in an address that the victory of Libyan revolution in 1969 was a great defeat for U.S. imperialism's interests in the region as well as a bitter event for Zionist [word indistinct].

Speaking about U.S. plots in the world and the region, Dr. Jasbi said that America shares in the Zionist regime's crimes against the oppressed Palestinian nation, which entity (Zionist) he said, had for nearly four decades plundered the Palestinian land and committed a systematic campaign of genocide against them.

He said that Muslim unity and a relentless struggle against the Zionist regime is the only way of destroying this enemy.

Iran's envoy continued that the Islamic Republic has initiated a campaign for expulsion of the Zionist regime from the United Nations and called for the support of all progressive countries of the world especially Islamic nations and Arab countries.

He proposed that the Zionist regime's expulsion from the United Nations be included in the final resolution of the congress.

On the plots of world oppressors, led by the U.S. against combatant Muslim Lebanese, Jasbi said that oppressed Muslim Lebanese fought against the aggression and occupation of their homeland. He said it was notable that with a minimum amount of arms they forced them to withdraw.

Referring to other U.S. plots, he talked about the Iraqi-imposed war against Iran, saying that Saddam Husayn, relying on promises of imperialists and reactionary regimes, attacked Iran and occupied vital parts of Iranian territory, but the Iranian nation led by Imam Khomeyni stopped the invasion, and Muslim masses repelled the aggression and are now ready to strike the final blow to the rotten regime of Saddam Husayn.

Jasbi added that any effort for peace without Saddam Husayn's removal from power was fruitless. President Khamene'i's envoy also commented on the presence of the U.S. in the Persian Gulf and its adventurism in the Suez Canal. He said that the Islamic Republic believed that the Persian Gulf countries were able to

secure peace and guarantee shipping in this waterway. He then condemned the U.S. provocation and Iraqi attacks on shippings in the Persian Gulf announcing that if the Persian Gulf becomes unsafe for Iran it will be insecure to all countries.

Referring to the Afghanistan issue, he condemned any interference in the internal affairs of other countries and said that Soviet occupation should be terminated, and Muslim Afghans should determine their own fate, without interference of any foreign powers. Dr. Jasbi also announced Iran's support for all liberation movements throughout the world.

IRNA on Iraqi Claims of Advanced Fighters

LD071032 Tehran IRNA in English 0920 GMT 7 Sep 84

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 6, IRNA — Iraq's Air Force Commander Hamid Sha'ban has claimed that the Baghdad regime has in its possession fighters more advanced than the Super Etendards it has received from France.

The Iraqi commander, however, failed to give any details on the type of the aircraft and the source which has supplied them.

The claim was made after poor performance of Super Etendards which fires Exocet missiles targetting commercial ships in the Persian Gulf.

The commander's claims were made in an interview with the Paris-based weekly *AL-WATAN* following Iraq's official protest to France for the poor performance of the planes' missiles.

It has also been announced in this connection that over 170 Exocet missiles fired by Super Etendards against Iranian and neutral targets have failed to give a successful result.

Meanwhile, political observers for Middle East affairs believe that such claims made by the Iraqi commander were merely aimed at covering up Iraq's inability to exploit Super Etendards efficiently.

Moreover, they believe, the objective is to strengthen the morale of the exhausted Iraqi forces in fronts of the Iraqi-imposed war on Iran and also encourage Iraq's supporters.

It should be noted that when French-made Super Etendards were delivered to Iraq, international mass media tried hard to inject the idea that with these aircraft Iraq would be able to completely destroy economic and military establishments of the Islamic Republic.

Opposition Paper on Majlis Discussions

GF031734 London KEYHAN in Persian 30 Aug 84 p 6

[Unattributed commentary: "The Government of Ghosts"]

[Text] The discussions in the Majlis about members of the Cabinet which took place in the past few weeks has finally lifted a corner of the propaganda curtain that has been created as a result of 5 years of ceaseless propaganda. Some of the members

of the opposition do not consider the entire matter in which the Majlis played an important role as anything but a ploy by the supporters of the Faqih [Khomeyni]. The staunch opposition believe that the regime is trying to put on a democratic mask in order to make its clear and open return to the Western camp more acceptable. In our opinion, such a conclusion is contrary to the facts. One should accept that the leaders of the Islamic Republic are experts at putting on such shows. Those who created the tragic Rex cinema incident in Abadan; those who shouldered empty caskets in the revolution-fevered streets of Tehran; and those who have turned an old communist hand such as Nureddin Kianuri into a person who recites prayers from memory, are no doubt capable of creating such a play. However, our slogan must be: "Let us see what is said, not who is saying it."

What has been said in the Majlis in recent weeks is worthy of analysis even if it was a dialogue in a street play. Part of the curtain was lifted and facets of a confused regime which is the prisoner of corruption and ineptness were revealed. Some of the remarks were so condemning that the broadcasts of the discussions on radio and television were stopped. Tehran dailies also published butchered reports of the proceedings. Sixteen ministers in a Cabinet of 26 were accused of corruption, mismanagement, waste, and payment of bribes to foreign companies. There was talk about billions of tumans and each accused minister tried to unburden his guilt by accusing others. Behzad Nabavi attributed a \$160 million "mistake" to his colleague Taqi Banki. Mohammad Gharazi claimed that the large theft in his ministry was a result of a broken promise by an oil purchasing company. Nabavi was finally criticized for having put his signature on the agreement with the Americans [the Algerian accord] and one could easily see that he was also very aware of the dimensions of his guilt. In the entire Iranian history, nobody has so easily wasted \$10 billion on the nation's public funds with a simple signature. After the disgraceful Turkmancha'i agreement no other contract has destroyed Iranian public interest as that of the "accord" that Nabavi signed with the "archsatan." If the accused had the smallest sense of conscience, they would have resigned immediately. The Majlis effectively labeled them thieves, charlatans, and incompetent.

Everyone is aware of the conditions which led to the so-called election of this Majlis. The list of candidates was approved by the Faqih and anytime there was the remotest possibility that someone may have deviated from the line, they canceled the area's election results or revoked the credentials of the elected deputy. Therefore, the remarks about waste of public funds, mismanagement, discrimination, and incompetence did not come out of the mouth of the opposition or those labeled by the regime as "the oppression," "hypocrites," "liberals," "monarchists," or "mini-groups." The curtain was lifted by those whose courage is apparently more than that imagined by the Faqih. All the accused benefitted from the game of "Who was it? Who was it? It wasn't I!" All of them, using incomprehensible words, pretended that the Islamic Republic is run by ghosts and genies. Nabavi said: "They forced me to sign the hostage accord." Who are they? Gharazi said: "It is not my fault if they reneged and are not paying our \$900 million." Who is not paying this money?

Musavi-Khamene'i said: "They do not let us pass the necessary laws and enforce them." Who are they? Nili said: "They have

confiscated the mines and have put them out of commission." Who has confiscated the mines? Ghafuri-Fard said: "They throw spanners in our works to create blackouts." Zali said: "They have taken the land and will not allow cultivation." Who has taken the land and does not allow cultivation?

It is not only the Islamic ministers that are involved in this game of pass the buck. "The heavy guns" of the regime were also participants. In recent weeks, Ayatollah [as published] Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, Ayatollah [as published] 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Ayatollah 'Abdolkarim Musavi-Ardabili also have talked about "those who do not allow work to go on," "those who have filled the country with corruption," and those "who have been encouraging corruption." This means that this triangle of power is guiltless. So who shall we look for then?

Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri has been speaking as a sort of "opposition" leader for some time now. If we look at his speeches over the past 18 months, we find the best case for the trial of the regime. This leaves Ayatollah Khomeyni. However, in the framework of the constitution of the Islamic Republic, he is effectively one of the saints and thus does not bear any responsibility. So the blame must lie with the Iranian nation! The Islamic Revolution managed to change Iranian leaders and now the only remaining duty is to change the nation! Ayatollah Meshkini precisely has raised this point in his own style of speech. He said: "O, you nation, do something so that you become worthy of this imam!" This statement was made during the course of a Friday prayer sermon in Qom on 10 August 1984. Up to now we have thought that it is the leaders who should be worthy of the nation.

No matter, the issue is too important to turn it into a comedy. The Islamic prime minister has promised to investigate everything and the first step in the so-called "battle against corruption" was the arrest of six high-ranking officials of the Ministry of Industry. However, even within the framework of the present regulations much work can be done providing there is some degree of determination. For example, the powers of the general accounting office, which has effectively been stripped of all power since the revolution, can be reinstated. Other examples are: publish the true balance sheet of the Central Bank; release all the accounts of the Iranian national oil company; make secret deals and private auctions illegal; and publish a detailed account of government expenditure, especially for the so-called revolutionary organizations.

Obviously all these acts would not even be a sedative for the cancer of corruption that is quickly engulfing all government organizations. However, the Islamic government should at least try to adhere to laws and regulations within the framework of which it should operate. There are many who will say that to expect such a thing from the Islamic government is even more worthless than trying to compress water. We disagree. There are still thousands of worthy Iranians within the general cadre of the government who are trying to stop this corruption as best they can. Their efforts may be like collecting pebbles to stop a mammoth flood, but such good intentions must be praised and good and honest comments must be supported even if they are uttered in the Majlis.